(c) how many mines have been affected by these fires, which are the affected seams of these mines, how much area is involved and what is the tonnage of coal involved in these fires; and

(d) what are the plans to extinguish these fires and within what time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Under the World Bank aided technical assistance project, a diagnostic study of Jharia coalfield fires is in progress and two international consultants are engaged in preparing the following reports:—

(i) to develop a fire fighting programme of each of the known fire in Jharia Coalfield.

(ii) to prepare an Environmental Management Plan for Jharia Coalfield.

(c) As per available information, thirty five coal mines of BCCL involving a number of seams and covering an area of about 17 Sq. Kms. have been affected by fires. A precise estimate of coal reserves lost due to fire in Jharia coalfield is difficult. However, it is estimated that about 37 million tonnes of coal reserve might have been damaged due to fires and about 1853 million tonnes of coal reserve is trapped due to these fires which cannot be mined.

(d) The relevant details would be known only after the report on diagnostic study is available.

Employment for Children of Beedi Workers

1370. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the prospects for employment of the children of Beedi workers in the same sector by the year 2005 A.D.;

(b) whether any study has been done by Labour Ministry to assess the future employment in the Beedi sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) No such study has been conducted by the Ministry of Labour.

Directorate General of Employment and Training

1371. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative work in certain sections in the Directorate General of Employment and Training is being looked after by Assistant Directors, Deputy Directors, Joint Directors etc.;

(b) whether the Staff Inspection Unit, while conducting study has recommended abolition of redundant and unnecessary posts between Section Officer and Joint Secretary;

(c) whether abolitation of such redundant posts can streamline the functioning of the Sections by posting only one Under Secretary between Section Officer and the Joint Secretary; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) the work measurement study was carried out by Staff Inspection Unit, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure at different periods of time. One report was given in 1987-88 and based on that report, 53 posts which were declared as redundant were abolished out of which two posts are between the level of Section Officer and Joint Secretary, in 1990-91, another study was made by Staff Inspection Unit relating to Data Processing Unit and recommendation was made for abolition of one post which has already been done. In 1992-93, a work measurement-study of a part of Training Directorate was made and based on that study, 10 posts of different levels were abolished. Further, Staff Inspection Unit has also submitted tentative reports on Method Study of Training Directorate